

Today's News - Wednesday, October 13, 2010

- Goldhagen on the Park51 Islamic cultural center: "initial drawings for an architectural project are wishes, and wishes often bear little if any resemblance to the finished building" - in other words, we'll just have to wait and see.
- Kamin on the likely demise of Calatrava's Chicago Spire: "The biggest tragedy of all would be if the proposed improvements to the public realm...are now dead, too."
- An eyeful of Nouvel's "welcoming, green, and light-filled vision" for island in the Seine (after years of other faltering plans).
- M.I.T.'s \$1.4 billion, 10-year development plan (starchitects included) "has helped lift East Cambridge out of its postindustrial doldrums."
- McCloud weighs in on Mecanoo's plan for the Library of Birmingham: "If it works it's going to be one of the great architecture events in European cities...but it's a big if."
- Philly developer ditches "eye-popping plan" (and its architects) for transforming historic granary.
- One of Gwathmey's final projects: "a new architectural identity for the oldest art museum in the West" (great pix).
- McDonald on the design for a new children's hospital: kids had lots of input - and "Dublin has never seen anything like it."
- The NYC/AIANY's "Active Design Guidelines" offers practical advice in how design can encourage physical activity and good health.
- LaBarre has a most interesting conversation with Iwan Baan, "the Julius Shulman of the Internet age" (amazing pix, of course).
- Balmond strikes out on his own after 40 years with Arup: "it's time to move on. But we're close. Arup is family."
- International Living Building Institute certifies 3 more of the world's greenest buildings.
- The 2010 Phyllis Lambert Design Montréal Grant winners are off for "a month-long research and creation trip" to Berlin.
- Call for entries: MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects Awards for unbuilt or incomplete projects + Deadline looms for 58th Annual P/A Awards.
- We couldn't resist: Why art books won't become e-books any time soon (music to our ears!) + An incredible slide show of an underwater exhibition in Cancun: 350 human forms, cast from real people and destined to become an artificial reef (truly amazing!).

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The Secret of Park51: How would it look? We just don't know: Renderings such as these are the stock-in-trade of architectural clients...initial drawings for an architectural project are wishes, and that wishes often bear little if any resemblance to the finished building...Those who wish to know what...the actual building will look like...must wait and see. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen -- SOMA architects - The New Republic

Spire looking dead + Spire's likely demise a blow to Chicago architecture; the key, moving ahead is to retain proposed improvements to riverfront and lakefront...The biggest tragedy of all would be if the proposed improvements to the public realm...are now dead, too. By Blair Kamin -- Santiago Calatrava [images, links] - Chicago Tribune

Jean Nouvel Reveals Designs for Paris's Île Seguin Art Complex: Ever since the Renault factory produced its last car on Île Seguin [in] 1992, ideas have been floated for creating a new future for this island in the Seine River...active plans for a constellation of art and commercial spaces have finally begun to take shape...a welcoming, green, and light-filled vision for the island and its artistic undertakings. -- Michel Desvigne; Yann Kersalé [slide show] - Artinfo France

M.I.T.'s Makeover for the 21st Century: ...a 10-year development plan, nearly complete at a cost of \$1.4 billion, has set a new mood — avant-garde — with 10 buildings by architects like Frank Gehry, Steven Holl and Fumihiko Maki, as well as a revamped streetscape...has helped lift East Cambridge out of its postindustrial doldrums, turning it into a submarket with global cachet. -- Ellenzweig; Kevin Roche/John Dinkeloo & Associates;Goody Clancy; Steffian Bradley [slide show] - New York Times

Library of Birmingham could be city's grand design, says Kevin McCloud: "If it works it's going to be one of the great architecture events in European cities...if it works...but it's a big if." -- John Madin (1974); Francine Houben/Mecanoo - Birmingham Post (UK)

Gwathmey's Parting Gesture at Crocker Art Museum: The Sacramento museum unveils one of the final projects designed by Charles Gwathmey...\$75 million addition becomes a new architectural identity for the oldest art museum in the West. -- Gwathmey Siegel [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Fluid design for new children's hospital creates playful effect, as befits clientele: Children had a key input into plans...Dublin has never seen anything like the national children's hospital... By Frank McDonald -- O'Connell Mahon; NBBJ; Murray O'Laoire [image] - Irish Times

Silo Saved? Developer Bows to Community Pressure: Philly developer nixes mixed-use plan for 85-year-old grain elevator...ditched an eye-popping plan to turn the Reading Company Grain Elevator in Center City into a mixed-use development...will be hiring another firm to design condominiums on a lot adjacent to the granary. -- Interface Studio Architects [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Can Architecture Help Prevent Obesity? For two years, AIANY and city officials have studied and discussed how design can encourage physical activity and good health. Their findings are presented in "Active Design Guidelines"...practical advice to architects in NYC and beyond. -- Fit City; Center for Architecture; Robyne Kassen/Urban Movement Design [images, links] - Architectural Record

Meet Iwan Baan, Today's Leading Architectural Photographer: ...won the first annual Julius Shulman Photography Award...[he] is, in many ways, the Julius Shulman of the Internet age...By his own admission, he doesn't "know anything about architecture"...he talks about tolerating...the business model of the Internet; his new book on Brasilia and Chandigarh; and getting a gun pulled on him in Venezuela. By Suzanne LaBarre [slide show] - Fast Company

[Cecil Balmond Leaves Arup to Start His Own Firm: ...credited with making possible some of the most audacious structures in recent decades...Balmond Studio, will be based in London, although he says "I'll spend a little more time in America," than he does already..."I've been there for a long time, so it's time to move on. But we're close. Arup is family."](#) -- [Office for Metropolitan Architecture \(OMA\)](#); [Shigeru Ban](#); [Anish Kapoor](#); [Daniel Libeskind](#) [slide show] - [Architectural Record](#)

[International Living Building Institute Certifies World's Greenest Buildings: Three projects complete third-party audit of the Living Building Challenge...](#) -- [BNIM Architects](#); [Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects](#); [Ann and Gord Baird/Eco-Sense](#) [images] - [International Living Building Institute](#)

[The 2010 Phyllis Lambert Design Montréal Grant awarded to Mouna Andraos and Melissa Mongiat: \\$10,000 grant will enable...a month-long research and creation trip to the Open Design City Lab in Berlin, a UNESCO City of Design, and to attend the DMY Berlin design festival.](#) - [City of Montreal / Ville de Montréal](#)

[Call for entries: MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects Awards for unbuilt or incomplete projects in 8 categories \(international\); deadline: November 19-](#) [Architectural Review \(UK\)](#)

[Call for entries deadline reminder: 58th Annual P/A Awards: recognize unbuilt projects demonstrating overall design excellence and innovation \(U.S., Canada, and Mexico\); deadline: October 22 \(late deadline: Oct. 27\)](#) - [Architect Magazine](#)

[iPad, Meet Your Nemesis: Why art books won't become e-books any time soon.](#) - [Slate](#)

[Jason deCaires Taylor: sculpture submerged: Ten minutes by boat, and nine metres deep, an extraordinary installation is taking shape off the coast of Cancun in Mexico...Sunk to the bottom of the seabed are 350 human forms -- cast from real people -- with another 50 to be come before the Museo Subacuático de Arte officially opens next month](#) [slide show] - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Book Review: "Architecture and Beauty: Conversations with Architects about a Troubled Relationship": Yael Reisner exuberantly interviews architects about beauty. Any of you architects seen Mr. Keats Lately? By Norman Weinstein-](#) [ArchNewsNow](#)

[Flex Space: AECOM Design + Planning has a New York office that's as flexible as its corporate style - and LEED Gold to boot. -- Michielli + Wytetzner Architects](#) [images] - [ArchNewsNow](#)



[Renzo Piano Building Workshop: Resnick Pavilion, LACMA Expansion - Phase II, Los Angeles](#)

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